

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A refastenable absorbent garment comprising:  
a first body panel having a body side and a garment side;  
a second body panel having a body side and a garment side; and  
a fastener member attached to said body side of said first body panel  
and releasably attached to said body side of said second body panel.

2. The invention of claim 1 wherein said fastener member is fixedly  
attached to said body side of said first body panel.

3. The invention of claim 2 wherein said fastener member is bonded to  
said body side of said first body panel.

4. The invention of claim 3 wherein said fastener member is  
ultrasonically bonded to said body side of said first body panel.

5. The invention of claim 1 wherein said fastener member is releasably  
attached to said body side of said first body panel.

6. The invention of claim 1 wherein said fastener member comprises a  
first portion attached to said body side of said first body panel and a second  
portion releasably attached to said body side of said second body panel, wherein  
said first and second portions are hingedly connected.

7. The invention of claim 6 wherein each of said first and second body  
panels comprise an outboard side edge and wherein each of said first and second  
portions comprise an inboard and an outboard edge, wherein said outboard edges  
of said first and second portions are positioned closer to said outboard side edges  
of said first and second body panels, respectively, than are said inboard edges of  
said first and second portions, and wherein said outboard edges of said first and  
second portions are hingedly connected.

8. The invention of claim 6 wherein said first and second portions comprise first and second folds hingedly connected along a folded edge.

9. The invention of claim 6 wherein said first portion is bonded to said second portion.

10. The invention of claim 6 wherein each of said first and second portions have a body side and a garment side, wherein said body sides of each of said first and second portions are in contact when said absorbent garment is in a folded configuration with said body sides of said first and second body panels in contact, and wherein said garment side of said first portion is attached to said body side of said first body panel and wherein said garment side of said second portion is releasably engaged with said body side of said second body panel.

11. The invention of claim 1 wherein said fastener member comprises a refastenable portion releasably engaging said body side of said second body panel.

12. The invention of claim 11 wherein said refastenable portion comprise an array of hook members.

13. The invention of claim 9 wherein said refastenable portion comprises an adhesive.

14. The invention of claim 1 wherein said first body panel is a rear body panel and wherein said second body panel is a front body panel.

15. The invention of claim 1 wherein said first and second body panels are integrally formed as portions of a one-piece body chassis.

16. A refastenable absorbent garment comprising:  
a first body panel having a body side, a garment side and an outboard side edge;  
a second body panel having a body side, a garment side and an outboard side edge; and

a fastener member comprising first and second portions each having an inboard and an outboard edge, wherein said first portion is attached to said body side of said first body panel and said second portion is releasably attached to said body side of said second body panel, and wherein said outboard edges of said first and second portions are hingedly connected.

17. The invention of claim 16 wherein said first portion of said fastener member is fixedly attached to said body side of said first body panel.

18. The invention of claim 17 wherein said first portion of said fastener member is bonded to said body side of said first body panel.

19. The invention of claim 16 wherein said first portion of said fastener member is releasably attached to said body side of said first body panel.

20. The invention of claim 16 wherein said first and second body panels are integrally formed as portions of a one-piece body chassis.

21. A method for assembling a refastenable absorbent garment comprising:

providing a first body panel having a body side and a garment side;  
providing a second body panel having a body side and a garment

side;

providing a fastener member comprising a first and second portion each having a body side and a garment side, wherein said body side of said first portion faces said body side of said second portion and wherein said first and second portions are hingedly connected;

applying said garment side of said first portion of said fastener member to said body side of said first body panel; and

releasably applying said body side of said second body panel to said garment side of said second portion of said fastener member.

22. The invention of claim 21 wherein applying said garment side of said first portion of said fastener member to said body side of said first body panel comprises fixedly securing said garment side of said first portion of said fastener member to said body side of said first body panel.

23. The invention of claim 21 wherein said fixedly securing said garment side of said first portion of said fastener member to said body side of said first body panel comprising bonding said garment side of said first portion of said fastener member to said body side of said first body panel.

24. The invention of claim 21 wherein applying said garment side of said first portion of said fastener member to said body side of said first body panel comprises releasably securing said garment side of said first portion of said fastener member to said body side of said first body panel.

25. The invention of claim 21 wherein each of said first and second body panels comprise an outboard side edge and wherein each of said first and second portions comprise an inboard and an outboard edge, wherein said outboard edges of said first and second portions are positioned closer to said outboard side edges of said first and second body panels, respectively, than are said inboard edges of said first and second portions, and wherein said outboard edges of said first and second portions are hingedly connected.

26. The invention of claim 21 wherein said first and second portions comprise first and second folds hingedly connected along a folded edge.

27. The invention of claim 21 wherein said first portion is bonded to said second portion.

28. The invention of claim 21 wherein said first and second body panels are integrally formed as portions of a one-piece body chassis.

29. A method for manufacturing a refastenable absorbent garment comprising:

moving a second body panel web having a body side and a garment side in a machine direction;

5 providing a plurality of fastener members each comprising a first and second portion, wherein said first and second portions each have a body side and a garment side;

successively applying said garment side of said first portions of said fastener members to said body side of said first body panel web; and

successively, releasably applying said body side of said second body panel web to said garment side of said second portions of said fastener members.

30. The invention of claim 29 wherein each of said plurality of said first and second fastener members comprises a center region, and further comprising successively securing said center region of said first portions of said fastener members to said center region of said second portions of said fastener members, and successively cutting said first and second body panel webs and said first and second portions along said center regions of said first and second fastener members to form a plurality of discrete absorbent garments.

20                    31.     The invention of claim 30 wherein said successively securing said center region of said first portions of said fastener members to said center region of said second portions of said fastener members comprises successively bonding said center region of said first portions of said fastener members to said center region of said second portions of said fastener members.

25                    32.    The invention of claim 29 wherein said successively applying said garment side of said first portions of said fastener members to said body side of said first body panel web comprises successively bonding said garment side of said first portions of said fastener members to said body side of said first body panel web.

33. The invention of claim 29 wherein said successively applying said garment side of said first portions of said fastener members to said body side of said first body panel web comprises successively releasably securing said garment side of said first portions of said fastener members to said body side of said first body panel web.

34. The invention of claim 29 wherein said second portions of said fastener members each comprise an array of hooks, and wherein successively, releasably applying said body side of said second body panel web to said garment side of said second portions of said fastener members comprises successively, releasably engaging said body side of said second body panel web with said array of hooks.

35. The invention of claim 34 wherein said second body panel comprises a landing material defining at least in part said body side thereof.

36. The invention of claim 29 wherein said second portions of said fastener members each comprise an adhesive patch, and wherein successively, releasably applying said body side of said second body panel web to said garment side of said second portions of said fastener members comprises successively, releasably engaging said body side of said second body panel web with said adhesive patch.

37. The invention of claim 29 wherein said first and second body panels are integrally formed as portions of a one-piece body chassis.

38. A method of using an absorbent garment comprising:  
providing said absorbent garment comprising a first body panel having a body side and a garment side, a second body panel having a body side and a garment side, and a fastener member attached to said body side of said first body panel and releasably attached to said body side of said second body panel;  
applying said garment to a user; and

disengaging said fastener member from said body side of said second body panel.

39. The invention of claim 38 further comprising releasably reengaging said fastener member with said body side of said second body panel.

5 40. The invention of claim 38 wherein said fastener member comprises a first portion attached to said body side of said first body panel and a second portion releasably attached to said body side of said second body panel, wherein said first and second portions are hingedly connected.